

Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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P 221302Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 2220
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LEBANON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON UK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN PRIORITY
COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY
CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY

S E C R E T MANAMA 0716

E.O. 11652 : XGDS-1

TAGS : PINS, PINT, BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN SECURITY DECREE

REFERENCE : MANAMA 0699

1. JUNE 22, CABINET MADE APPARENTLY LAST-MINUTE DECISION TO
BOYCOTT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING FOR THIRD STRAIGHT WEEK.
IN GOVERNMENT'S ABSENCE, NO MEETING TOOK PLACE. AT NOON,
SOME THREE HOURS AFTER THIS DEVELOPMENT, BAHRAIN RADIO NEWS
FAILED TO MENTION THIS INCIDENT. AT NOON CABINET WAS STILL
IN EMERGENCY SESSION. BAHRAIN REMAINS SUPERFICIALLY CALM
WITH NO EVIDENCE DEMONSTRATIONS OR OTHER DISORDER IN THE
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IMMEDIATE OFFING.

2. IN LAST FEW DAYS AMIR AND SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS, IN SOCIAL SETTINGS PREVENTING SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION, HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME THEIR CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION. JUNE 19 INFORMATION MINISTER MOAYYED, WHO ALONG WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI IS THE GOVERNMENT'S "NEGOTIATOR" WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY BLOCS, TOLD ME GOB DETERMINED TO HOLD TO ITS POSITION. GOB INSISTS THAT ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF SECURITY DECREE BE IN CLOSED SESSION AND, AT SAME TIME, IS SEEKING ASSEMBLY AGREEMENT TO POSTPONE ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION UNTIL NEXT FALL, PROMISING TO REVIEW DECREE OVER SUMMER WITH VIEW TO MODIFYING IT TO MEET OBJECTIONS OF SOME DEPUTIES TO PRESENT TEXT. MOAYYED TOLD ME GOVERNMENT PARTICULARLY WORRIED BY FACT THAT RIGHT-WING RELIGIOUS GROUP, ON WHICH GOVERNMENT WAS COUNTING FOR SUPPORT, HAS APPARENTLY MADE A DEAL WITH LEFT-WING OPPOSITION AND IS OPPOSING SECURITY DECREE. AT SAME TIME, MEMBERS OF THE MODERATE MIDDLE OF ROAD GROUP IN ASSEMBLY (HALF THE ELECTED DEPUTIES) APPEAR INDIVIDUALLY UNWILLING TO TAKE A STAND WITH GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE. MOAYYED SAID HE BECOMING CONCERNED BAHRAIN IS HEADING FOR A "1956 SITUATION", WITH THE OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT UNWILLING TO ACCEPT ANY COMPROMISE AND PREFERRING TO CLING TO THEIR OWN POSITIONS RATHER THAN ADVANCING WHAT GOVERNMENT WOULD PERCEIVE AS COMMON GOOD.

3. COMMINT: JUNE 22 CONTINUATION OF GOVERNMENT-PARLIAMENTARY STANDOFF INTO THE THIRD WEEK ADDS WEIGHT TO MOAYYED'S GLOOMY ASSESSMENT. AT THIS MOMENT, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT GOVERNMENT'S NEXT STEP WILL BE. AMIR COULD MERELY ISSUE DECREE DECLARING JUNE 29 AS SUMMER RECESS DATE FOR ASSEMBLY. WE EXPECT GOVERNMENT-ASSEMBLY CONSULTATIONS TO CONTINUE FOR NEXT FEW DAYS WHILE GOVERNMENT ASSESSES VALUE, IF ANY, OF TRYING FOR FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE ASSEMBLY SESSION JUNE 29, AND BEYOND IF NECESSARY, IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

TWINAM

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